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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria / Czechoslovakia

DATE: 25X1A6a

INFO.

SUBJECT Socialist Convention in Prague

DIST. 17 December 1946

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ORIGIN

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SUPPLEMENT

1. Dr. Julius Deutsch declared in the Arbeiterzeitung of 13 December 1946 that the convention of the Social Democratic Parties of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, Austria, Bulgaria, and Hungary was a success since it interrupted the isolation of the respective Socialist parties and opened the way for further negotiations. He said that the Socialist leaders discussed the reorganization of mutual trade, clearing of currency, and the early easing of the present strict border controls which are blocking trade. However, he declared that the convention made a pointed effort to sidestep the issue of collaboration with the Communists.

2. [REDACTED] the Austrian delegation was faced with a block of Socialist parties cooperating with the Communists and Soviets. He thinks the convention was sponsored by the Soviet Union with the aim of putting pressure on the Austrian Socialists to cooperate with the Austrian Communists. This aim was not achieved, for Deutsch told the convention plainly that the Austrian Communists, if interested in the unity of the leftist parties, should join the Socialist Party. This statement elicited an attack by the Poles, and hence created a critical impasse. The Czechs intervened, and the unity issue was dropped in favor of economic questions.

3. From here on Deutsch noticed the friendly attitude on part of the Czechs and the Hungarians. While they did not openly sympathize, they appeared surprised and encouraged by the Austrian stand.

4. Deutsch also noticed that some of the Romanian and Polish delegates were not in full agreement with their own spokesmen, whom Deutsch called "poor Communists". However, the Bulgarian, Romanian, and Polish delegations as a whole were clearly under Soviet orders.

5. Deutsch felt that, although a common political ground between the Austrians and the eastern Socialists could not be established, the meeting proved that economic cooperation was possible and desired by all.

6. The Italian Socialists sent Valiani as an observer. Deutsch predicts that early contacts will be established between the Austrian and Italian Socialist parties.

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